

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 31

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 29, 1996

By Senator BASSANO

1    **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** establishing the “New Jersey Legislative  
2       Commission on Health Care Financing.”

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4    **WHEREAS**, The State should take all necessary and appropriate actions to  
5       ensure the provision of high quality and cost-effective health care services  
6       to its citizens; and

7    **WHEREAS**, There are more than 800,000 residents of this State without  
8       health insurance coverage to protect themselves and their families against  
9       the soaring costs of health care services; and

10   **WHEREAS**, Hospital costs in New Jersey have continued to increase rapidly  
11       despite the financial incentives provided by the DRG hospital rate-setting  
12       system for the efficient use of hospital resources; and

13   **WHEREAS**, The business community and health insurers are increasingly  
14       concerned about funding uncompensated hospital care as a result of the  
15       growing financial burden imposed upon them by ever increasing hospital  
16       reimbursement rates; and

17   **WHEREAS**, All of the interested parties, including providers, insurers,  
18       employers, labor and health care consumers, are calling for significant  
19       action to control health care costs and, at the same time, make health care  
20       more accessible; and

21   **WHEREAS**, The Legislature and other interested parties have an obligation  
22       to address the various aspects of the health care financing crisis in this State  
23       in a comprehensive manner as soon as possible, and to point the way  
24       towards cost-effective and equitable strategies to ensure quality, affordable  
25       health care services for all New Jerseyans; now, therefore,

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27       **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General  
28       Assembly concurring):

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30       1. There is established the "New Jersey Legislative Commission on Health  
31       Care Financing." The purpose of the commission is to study health care  
32       financing issues in this State, with primary emphasis on the problem of  
33       inadequate and unaffordable health insurance coverage among the citizens of  
34       this State. The commission shall review the issues concerning health care  
35       financing in the State and develop recommendations regarding the most

1 effective means to address these issues.

2 The commission shall present a report of its findings and recommendations  
3 to the Legislature no later than six months after the organization of the  
4 commission.

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6 2. The commission shall consist of 24 members as follows:

7 a. To be appointed by the President of the Senate;

8 (1) Two members of the Senate, no more than one of whom shall be of the  
9 same political party; and

10 (2) Ten public members as follows: one physician, one registered nurse,  
11 one hospital administrator, one health insurance company representative, one  
12 health maintenance organization representative, one attorney with a  
13 professional background in health care law, one representative of the New  
14 Jersey Chamber of Commerce, one representative of the New Jersey  
15 Business and Industry Association, one representative of the National  
16 Federation of Independent Business and one representative of organized  
17 labor.

18 b. To be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly;

19 (1) Two members of the General Assembly, no more than one of whom  
20 shall be of the same political party; and

21 (2) Ten public members as follows: one physician, one registered nurse,  
22 one hospital administrator, one health insurance company representative, one  
23 health maintenance organization representative, one attorney with a  
24 professional background in health care law, one representative of the New  
25 Jersey Chamber of Commerce, one representative of the New Jersey  
26 Business and Industry Association, one representative of the National  
27 Federation of Independent Business and one representative of organized  
28 labor.

29 The commission shall elect a chairman and a vice chairman from among its  
30 public members and a secretary who need not be a member of the  
31 commission.

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33 3. Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the  
34 same manner provided for the original appointments. The members of the  
35 commission shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for  
36 traveling and other miscellaneous expenses necessary to perform their duties,  
37 within the limits of funds made available to the commission for its purposes.

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39 4. The commission shall be entitled to call upon the services of any State,  
40 county or municipal department, board, commission or agency, as may be  
41 available to it for these purposes, and to incur such traveling and other  
42 miscellaneous expenses as it may deem necessary for the proper execution of  
43 its duties and as may be within the limit of funds appropriated or otherwise

1 made available to it for these purposes.

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3 5. The commission may meet and hold hearings at such places as it shall  
4 designate during the sessions or recesses of the Legislature.

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6 6. The commission shall expire upon the issuance of its report.

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STATEMENT

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11 This concurrent resolution establishes a 24-member "New Jersey  
12 Legislative Commission on Health Care Financing." The commission is to  
13 study health care financing issues in this State, with primary emphasis on the  
14 problem of inadequate and unaffordable health insurance coverage among the  
15 citizens of this State. The commission is directed to present a report of its  
16 findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than six months after  
17 the organization of the commission.

18 The members of the commission will include two Senators and two  
19 Assemblymen and 20 public members, ten of whom shall be appointed by the  
20 President of the Senate and ten of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker  
21 of the Assembly. The public members shall include: two physicians, two  
22 registered nurses, two hospital administrators, two health insurance company  
23 representatives, two health maintenance organization representatives, two  
24 attorneys with a professional background in health care law, two  
25 representatives of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, two  
26 representatives of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, two  
27 representatives of the National Federation of Independent Business and two  
28 representatives of organized labor.

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33 Establishes "New Jersey Legislative Commission on Health Care Financing."